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# SCANDAL'S BIZARRE START — WIGS & CODE NAMES

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WASHINGTON — Iranscam witness Richard Secord unveiled a bizarre story yesterday of secret U.S.-Iranian meetings at which the Americans used code names and the translator donned a wig.

Secord's tale, on his second day of testimony before the joint Iranscam hearings, highlighted the lengths to which key principals in the affair went to disguise their activities.

In a scene straight from a spy novel, Secord told of a February 1986 meeting at an airport hotel in Frankfurt, West Germany, in which U.S. officials met Iranian middlemen for the first time to discuss missile sales.

Present were Secord, Oliver North, a CIA officer and aides to Iranian Prime Minister Ali Khomeini.

Secord said he used the name "Gen. Adams." North became "Mr. Good" and the translator — Secord's Iranian business partner, Albert Hakim — was identified as a Turk named Ibrahim Ibrahim.

Because Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar had denounced Hakim as "an enemy of the state" when his name was proposed, Hakim was disguised in a gray wig and glasses.

Secord also recalled how U.S. officials, including former national security adviser Robert McFarlane, started distrusting Ghorbanifar after he failed to follow through on promises to free U.S.

hostages in Lebanon.

"McFarlane said Ghorbanifar was one of the most despicable characters he'd ever met," Secord testified.

He said he became so angry after Ghorbanifar bounced a check from a missile sale that he told the shadowy Iran arms merchant he wanted him "terminated."

"I was having a rather acid conversation with Ghorbanifar and I told him on the telephone that I thought he behaved very poorly, that he was promising the moon, always, and never producing, and I was going to recommend that he be terminated," Secord said.

To a roomful of laughter, Secord said Ghorbanifar "misinterpreted that" and believed that Secord wanted him killed.

"I think I said later that that's not a bad idea," he joked. "But that's not what I had in mind."

Secord described in vivid detail how he and North used an elaborate coded scheme to communicate with each other during secret supply missions to the Nicaraguan contras.

North, who frequently clashed with moderates at the State Dept., gave that agency the code name "Wimp."

The CIA was code-named "Nancy," while field agents working the supply efforts were given such names as "Ralph" and "Blackie."

El Salvador was referred to as "Chicago," Tegucigalpa as "New York," ammunition as "salt," radars as "rain" and the contra forces as "eagles."

Asked by the committee why so many code names were used, Secord replied: "It's customary in clandestine operations to use pseudonyms."

Classified messages from Secord to North released by the committee provided some hilarious details about how the contra supply operation almost failed.

According to one memo, it once rained so hard on a secret Costa Rican airstrip that an airplane carrying supplies was stuck in the mud for nearly a week.